RURAL DISTRICT OF
BROADWOODWIDGER.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1950.



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Broadwoodwidger Rural District.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1950.

Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report for the year 1950.

The births registered in the district numbered 18 - ten males and eight females. This figure is barely more than half the average for a number of years, giving a corresponding birth rate of only half that for England & Wales. It is not possible to draw any conclusions of a statistical nature from this figure as your population is so small. It can however be recorded as the lowest total on record.

There was a small increase in the number of deaths but even so the death rate is lower than that for England & Wales.

General Statistics.

Area (in acres)	. 29,294.
Population - 1931 Census	
Estimated Home Population - Mid	195 0 2,0 26.
Parishes	6.
Number of Inhabited Houses	. 580.
Rateable Value	
Product of Penny Rate	
Loan Debt	£17,944.4.10d.

Vital Statistics.

Still Birth Rate

Live Births Legitimate Illegitimate		•					10 10	8 7 1	18
Crude Birth F Corrected Bir Still Births	late th	Rat	te	•	Ф Я	•	ulatio	9.6	England & Wales 15.8

Male Female Total

0.37

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Male Female Total	
Deaths 8 13 21	
	England & Wales
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 population 10.4 Corrected Death Rate 10.1 Deaths from Maternal Causes Nil	11.6
Maternal Mortality Deaths of Infants under 1 year Nil	0.86
Infant Mortality	29.8
The chief causes of death were :-	
Infectious Causes:	
Pulmonary Tuberculosis 1	
General Causes:	
Heart Disease	
Total: 21	
Age of Death Table.	
Age at Death Males Females	
Infants under 1 year	
55 - 65 years	

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General Provisions of the Health Services.

These remained as in previous years and are generally adequate for the service of the inhabitants of the district.

Infectious Diseases.

There was almost a complete absence of infectious conditions during the year. One case of Erysipelas was notified by a medical practitioner - no notifications were received from the schools in the area.

<u>Diphtheria:</u> No case of this disease was notified during the year.

Tuberculosis: One case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified during the year and one death recorded from this cause. Three people remained on the register at the end of the year - two pulmonary and one non-pulmonary.

In conclusion I would thank the Council for the ready hearing I always receive and Mr. Judd who has kindly once again prepared the section on housing and sanitation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. D. ALLEN-PRICE.

Medical Officer of Health.

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Mr. Chairman & Gentlemen,

Council Houses.

Langdon Cross.

A tender for the erection of these two traditional houses was accepted in the sum of £2,915-12-6 with site works costing £326. Work was started in May and the houses were almost completed at the end of the year.

Maxworthy.

After much delay a tender for this pair of traditional houses was accepted in the sum of £2,758. Work had not started at the end of the year.

St. Giles-in-the-Heath.

As it was found impossible to obtain a tender sufficiently low to be approved the Council decided to abandon this site for six houses. After learning that the tender would have to be reduced by about £2,820 the Council agreed to re-sell the site.

A new site on more level ground was selected at Box's Shop and the Council approved the lay-out for four traditional houses.

Ladycross.

The lay-out for a further two traditional houses on the site already owned by the Council at Ladycross was approved. The existing water supply and sewer will be used thus avoiding the usual heavy cost of site works.

New Dwellings Completed.

To be used in connection with agriculture 1.

Plans.

The following plans were approved :-

	Farmhouse	0 0 0	1.
2.	Dwelling House		1.
3.	Additions to existing dwellings		4.
4.	Garage and store	6 0 0	1.
5.	Cowshed		1.
6.	Bathroom, W.C. and septic tank drains	age	17.

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Housing Repairs.

- 1. Notice under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936.
 - Property since repaired

1.

- 2. Notice under Public Health Act, 1936 1. 3. Properties repaired after informal notices 3.
- 4. No applications for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949 have been received.

Food Supplies.

Milk.

Licences to produce Tuberculin Tested Milk have been granted to the following :-

- 1. Mr. C.H. Hutchings, Pattacott, North Petherwin.
- 2. Mr. M.G. Bircham, Downtown, Broadwood.
- 3. Mr. E.S.G. Griffin, Wheatley, North Petherwin. 4. Lt.Col. R. Hooley, Thorne, Broadwood.

Ice Cream.

There is only one retailer of ice cream in the district. Three samples were taken for analysis with the following results:-

Grade 1 ... 1. Grade 2 ...

Bakeries.

There are none in the district.

Butchers.

There is only one resident in the district and conditions are satisfactory.

Grocers, Etc.

There are seven general stores where groceries are sold. With one exception these are small and occupy one room divided off from the dwelling house. Conditions are satisfactory. There is one licensed premises and no catering establishments.

Water Supplies.

The need for the early extension of the North Devon Water Board's main into the district is urgent as proved by the fact that of the 34 samples of water submitted for analysis during the year no less than 28 were heavily contaminated and unsafe for drinking purposes without treatment. Occupiers of houses whose water supply is known to be polluted are advised to boil all drinking water.

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Schools.

There are four Primary Schools in the district. The pail closets at Ivy House School are primitive and there is no suitable ground for burying the contents; this School should be provided with water closets.

The water supply at Ladycross School is still most unsatisfactory both as regards quantity and quality.

Refuse Collection.

A monthly service is provided for a small part of the district between Petherwin Gate and Yeolmbridge at a cost of £20 per annum.

Factories.

There is only one factory registered under the Factories Act, 1937. This factory is satisfactory.

Drainage.

A considerable nuisance at Petherwin Gate has been cleaned up by means of the waste water sewer which has been laid.

During the year 19 properties previously without drainage and with pail closets have had drains laid and the pail closets converted to water closets.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Council for the support and ready hearing they have always given me.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. A. JUDD.

Sanitary Inspector.

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